

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION**

**KENNETH WAYNE THOMAS,** §  
#02336038, §  
Petitioner, §  
§  
v. § Civil Action No. **3:23-CV-1118-L-BT**  
§  
**DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID,** §  
§  
Respondent. §

**ORDER**

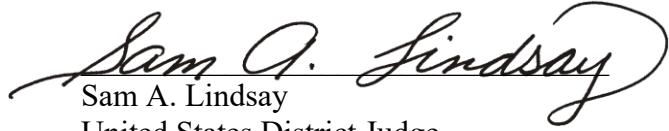
On April 28, 2023, United States Magistrate Judge Rebecca Rutherford entered the Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge (“Report”) (Doc. 5), recommending that the court deny pro se Petitioner Michael Ray Ferguson’s (“Petitioner”) Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis* (“Motion”) (Doc. 4) and deny his petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (“Petition”) (Doc. 3) for failure to pay the filing fee. The Report recommends that the court deny Petitioner’s Motion because his inmate trust account shows sufficient funds to pay the \$5.00 filing fee. Doc. 5 at 2. The Report recommends that the court dismiss the Petition and this action if Petitioner failed to pay the filing fee by June 19, 2023. *Id.* As of the date of this order, Petitioner has not paid the fee. Further, he has not objected to the Report, and the time to do so has passed.

Having reviewed the pleadings, file, record in this case, and Report, the court determines that the findings and conclusions of the magistrate judge are correct, and **accepts** them as those of the court. Petitioner has not shown that payment of the \$5.00 filing fee would cause him undue financial hardship. Because he has failed to pay the fee, the court determines that his Petition and this action must be dismissed. Accordingly, the court **denies** Petitioner’s Petition to vacate, set

aside, or correct sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (Doc. 3), and it **dismisses without prejudice** this action.

Considering the record in this case and pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22(b), Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 proceedings, and 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c), the court **denies** a certificate of appealability.\* The court determines that Petitioner has failed to show: (1) that reasonable jurists would find this court’s “assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong;” or (2) that reasonable jurists would find “it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right” and “debatable whether [this court] was correct in its procedural ruling.” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). In support of this determination, the court accepts and incorporates by reference the magistrate judge’s report filed in this case. In the event that Petitioner files a notice of appeal, he must pay the \$505 appellate filing fee or submit a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal.

**It is so ordered** this 27th day of June, 2023.



Sam A. Lindsay  
United States District Judge

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\* Rule 11 of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 Cases provides as follows:

**(a) Certificate of Appealability.** The district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant. Before entering the final order, the court may direct the parties to submit arguments on whether a certificate should issue. If the court issues a certificate, the court must state the specific issue or issues that satisfy the showing required by 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22. A motion to reconsider a denial does not extend the time to appeal.

**(b) Time to Appeal.** Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a) governs the time to appeal an order entered under these rules. A timely notice of appeal must be filed even if the district court issues a certificate of appealability.